



Frauen in internationaler Zusammenarbeit
für Frieden, Ökologie und soziale Gerechtigkeit, e.V.

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**German „Women and Life on Earth“ association announces
new office, meeting on women and biodiversity**

Almost seven years after the German non-profit association “Women and Life on Earth e.V.” (Women in international cooperation for peace, ecology and social justice) was founded in Berlin, the association will dedicate its new office in Bonn. “We are delighted to be able to use two rooms in the International Women’s Center right in central Bonn. Having our own space will allow us to expand our work and offer room for guests, volunteers and interns who want to work on the issues that are so crucial to our future,” said Anna Gyorgy, the association’s coordinator. The group invites friends and supporters to the dedication of the office on Friday evening, 19 March 2010, from 18:30.

The following day the association, in cooperation with Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), will hold a meeting on women and biodiversity. This will involve mainly German women in discussion, through internet phone connections, with some of the international activists featured in the film (produced by WLOE e.V. and WECF) “Women from Planet Diversity.” These ‘stars’ participated in the May 2008 “Planet Diversity” demonstration, festival and international conference for an agriculture that is local, diverse and free of genetically modified organisms (GMO-free). The roundtable discussion will focus on work done since the 2008 Convention on Biological Diversity – and the parallel Planet Diversity – and discuss plans for future action and educational outreach leading up to the next Convention on Biological Diversity. This UN sponsored international meeting will held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. A ‘Planet Diversity’ meeting is currently being planned by Japanese consumer and farm groups.

The year 2010 has been declared by the United Nations as the Year of Biological Diversity. “The dramatic loss of both biological and cultural diversity now underway is as serious a crisis as climate change, and the two are related,” explains Magdalena Black, WECF Project Officer for Sustainable Rural Development. Based in Munich, she will represent WECF at the meeting.

The meeting’s discussions and conclusions will be presented later on the WLOE website (www.wloe.org). Copies of the DVD “Women from Planet Diversity” are now

available in German, English and Spanish subtitled versions, with French and Polish versions nearing completion. Groups or schools interested in having the documentary shown, with a speaker and written resources for further information should contact the new WLOE office by phone or e-mail.

The date for the event and office opening is on the 30th anniversary of the large US northeastern conference “Women and Life on Earth: a conference on eco-feminism in the '80's” held on the first Vernal Equinox of the new decade, March 21-23, 1980. In 1999 the current international website project was launched by some involved in the earlier conference to continue its focus using internet-based communication and resources.

In March 2003, on the 23rd anniversary of the conference, a Women and Life on Earth-Women’s Pentagon Action archive was dedicated at the well-known Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, Massachusetts USA. On that weekend the US launched its attack on Baghdad, and WLOE members joined in non-violent civil disobedience against the war at a nearby military base while others opened the collection as planned.

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